

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Synod
OF THE
FREE INDEPENDENT GERMAN REFORMED
CONGREGATIONS
OF
PENNSYLVANIA,

*Held at Middletown, Dauphin county, Pa. the 6th, 7th
and 8th of September, 1829.*



Reading,
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1829.

SYNODICAL PROCEEDINGS.

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IN accordance with a resolution of the Synod, of the Free Independent German Reformed Church, held at Cootstown in the year 1828, the members thereof have convened at Middletown, Dauphin county, the 6th of September, 1829.

On Saturday evening the Revd. J. Althouse officiated.

On Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock, the Revd. Herman, President of the Synod, preached, from Luke 17, 20.

In the afternoon the Revd. C. W. Schultz delivered a discourse in the English language, from Gen. 28, 17. "*How dreadful is this place!*"

In the evening the Revd. H. Bibighouse entertained the congregation with a sermon, from Mark 7, 37. "*He hath done all things well.*"

FIRST SESSION.

The 6th of September in the morning at 9 o'clock, the members of the Revd. Synod met in the church at Middletown.

The session was opened by the President, with singing and prayer.

The following ministers were present :

Revd. F. L. Herman,	of Montgomery county.
— C. G. Herman,	- Cootstown.
— J. C. Guldin,	- Chester.
— T. H. Leinbach,	- Lebanon.
— A. L. Herman,	- Reading.
— H. Bibighouse,	- Philadelphia.
— P. Fisher,	- Dauphin.
— R. Fisher,	- Sunbury.
— S. Seibert,	- Middletown.

Candidates

Revd. D. S. Tobias,	- Columbia.
— J. Althouse,	- Jefferson.
— A. Schafer,	- Meyerstown.
— A. Berky,	- Lehigh.
— C. W. Schultz,	- Philadelphia.
— G. Mills,	- New-York.

The following were absent :

Revd. H. Diefenbach,	of Ohio.
— J. S. Dubs,	- Berks.
— B. T. Herman,	- Douglass.
— P. Zeiser,	- Ohio.
— A. J. Herman,	- Pottstown.
— J. Steely,	- Schuylkill.

The following gentlemen were present as deputies :

Mr. Caspar Schmick,	Doctor Porter,
John Seibert,	Mr. Abraham Levan,
Francis Seibert,	Jacob Rauch,
Adam Schafer,	Nicholas Heft,
Adam Manner,	Philip Griner,
Philip Kolz,	Peter Heffefanger,
John Moyer,	Peter Patiner,
Conrad Hicks,	George Pateman.
Christian Smith,	

The Synod consisted of 32 members.

The Synod now proceeded to elect the officers for the present year, when the following persons have been unanimously elected :

Rev. F. L. HERMAN, President,
C. G. HERMAN, Secretary, and
G. KEMP, Esq. Treasurer.

As customary the constitution of the Synod was read.

Hereupon the President requested the ministers to give a conscientious report of their congregations and of their ministry ; from which it appears, that generally peace and order prevail, and that the ministers, according to the exhortation of the apostle, "take heed unto themselves and to the flock, over which the holy ghost hath made them overseers, to feed the church of god, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

The minutes of the last year's Synod were read.

The President informed the Synod, that he had, since the last session, licensed the candidates Messrs. C. W. Schultz & G. Mills, present, to which he found himself empowered by the constitution of the Synod—after

having examined and found them proficient in theology, the learned languages and ecclesiastical history.

Rev. Bibighouse offered the following question to be decided by the Synod: "Shall those two candidates be examined again by the Synod or not?"

After much deliberation pro et contra, in which it has been observed, that Mr. Mills had preached for several years, licensed by the *so called* General Synod, it was resolved, that an examination of the President is sufficient and that both candidates be licensed.

The session was concluded with singing and prayer.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The session was opened with singing and prayer.

A letter of candidate R. T. Herman was read, in which he desires to be excused for not attending the Synod this year, and in which he gives an account of his ministry.

Was excused.

The committee, appointed by the last session to ordain D. Tobias in his congregation, reported, that they have been prevented in performing their duty, by sickness and administering the Lord's supper in their congregations, and crave to be excused.

The excusation was accepted.

Moved and seconded, that the Messrs. Althouse and Tobias be ordained to morrow at 10 o'clock.

Accepted.

Resolved, That the Rev. President, Secretary and the Rev. Messrs. Leinbach and Bibighouse constitute a committee for that purpose, and Revd. C. G. Herman to deliver a sermon on that occasion.

Moved and seconded that the candidate R. T. Herman be ordained, and that a committee be appointed to that purpose.

Resolved, that R. T. Herman be ordained in his, or his fathers congregation; and that the Revd. Messrs. Dubs, Guldin, Leinbach and the secretary form that committee.

Resolved, that the license of the candidates Berky, Schaffer and A. J. Herman be renewed for one year.

Mr. Mills informed the Synod that he has accepted of a call of the Reformed congregation of New-York; and presented a letter of the vestry of that congregation, in which they petition, that Mr. Mills might obtain the ordination by a committee in their congregation.

Resolved, that Mr. Mills be ordained in his congregation in New-York; and that to this purpose the following persons constitute a committee, *viz.* the Revd. Messrs. Bibighouse, Leinbach, Guldin, Dubs and C. G. Herman.

Mr. C. W. Schultz made application to be ordained in the New-York congregation by the same committee and at the same time.

Resolved, that Mr. Schultz be entitled to the ordination as soon as he obtains a regular call of a congregation.

Resolved, that the diaries of the candidates be referred to a committee and that the Revd. Bibighouse & P. Fisher be said committee.

Resolved, to examine the Treasurers account and that Messrs. Caspar Schmick, D. S. Tobias and J. Guldin constitute a committee for said purpose.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine the minutes of the Revd. German Reformed Synod of Ohio, and the Revd. Lutheran Synod of Tennessee, and to report on the contents relative to this Synod. The Revd. Messrs. A. L. Herman and H. Bibighouse were placed on this committee.

Resolved, that our synodical minutes be printed, in the German and English languages.

Concluded with singing and prayer.

This evening Revd. A. L. Herrman officiated from Hosea 13, 9.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock.

Singing and prayer opened this session.

Resolved, that the constitution of our Synod be printed in the English and German languages.

The committee, appointed to investigate the account of the treasurer, reported, that they found the same correct.

The committee, appointed to examine the diaries of the candidates, reported, that they are fully satisfied therewith.

Candidate Althouse reported as follows: that he, as a home missionary, travelled 4516 miles in Pennsylvania, Ohio & Virginia, that he preached 55 times, bap-

* This resolution was omitted in the german minutes of our Synod by mistake.

tized 136, confirmed 46 and administered the Lord's supper to 548.

The committee, appointed to examine the minutes of the Revd. Reformed Synod of Ohio, and the Revd. Luthern Synod of Tennessee, reported, that nothing in reference to this Synod is contained in them, except that those brethern manifest their brotherly love to us in transmitting their minutes.

Resolved, that 20 copies of our synodical minutes be sent to the Revd. Lutheran Synod of Tennessee and to the Revd. Reformed Synod of Ohio.

At 10 o'clock the congregaton was assembled in the church.

Revd. C. G. Herman preached from 2 Timothy 4, 2—5.

After the ordination sermon both candidates D. S. Tobias and J. Althouse were ordained in a solemn manner to the ministry of God.

The Revd. Brethern joined hands with the ordained servants of Christ, and craved the benediction of the Lord for them, to a faithful discharge of their duties in the Church of Christ.

FOURTH SESSION.

The President informed the Synod that a Mr. — Eppert, resident in Virginia, personally entreated him for licensure as a home-missionary—that he presented recommendations—and was granted a licence until the present session.

Resolved, that the President farther proceed with regard to Mr. Eppert, agreeable to the constitution of our Synod.

Resolved, that five hundred copies of our synodical minutes be printed, viz. three hundred in German and two hundred in English.

Resolved, that the Secretary and Revd. J. C. Guldin be a committee to translate the minutes into the English language & to promote the printing thereof.

Invitations have been given to the Synod for our next session from several places, as: Philadelphia, New-York, Trapp, Reamstown and Bernville; after the votes were gathered, it appeared that Philadelphia be the place of our next convention.

Resolved, that the next Synod be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Sabbath in the month of September, 1830.

Resolved, that the Synod now adjourn, to meet again next September.

Hereupon the Revd. Clergy presented the status ecclesiae.

Now all present, bowed with humble reverence before God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, their hearts, inspired with gratitude for the bounty and aid experienced in adjusting the concerns of his church, and with fervent supplication for his fatherly blessings to the propagation of his kingdom; and in the name of the Lord the members have been dismissed.

O that the Spirit of God would unite all true Christians so heartily, among themselves, and the great Supreme of his Church that all might be "of one heart and one soul," in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This evening the Revd. Guldin preached in the English language.

The above is a true transcript of the original.

ATTEST

Charles G. Herman,
Secretary of the Synod.

REPORT

of the given ministerial transactions.

NAMES OF THE MINISTERS.	Congregations	Baptized	Confirmed	Communicants	Buried	Schools
Mr. F. L. Herman,	5	72	45	460	16	5
— H. Dieffenbach,	4	—	—	—	—	—
— C. G. Herman,	6	195	56	644	42	11
— J. C. Guldin,	6	78	39	295	34	—
— J. S. Dubs,	6	—	—	—	—	—
— T. H. Leinbach,	6	97	28	600	38	6
— A. L. Herman,	6	90	31	421	40	4
— H. Bibighouse,	1	91	28	445	39	1
— P. Zeiser,	6	—	—	—	—	—
— P. Fisher,	6	65	—	275	25	—
— S. Seibert,	2	44	—	75	37	2
— J. Steely,	7	—	—	—	—	—
— R. Fisher,	6	57	—	275	16	4
— D. S. Tobias,	5	75	57	200	15	3
— J. Althouse,	4	85	—	73	3	1
— R. T. Herman,	3	40	—	—	20	2
— A. Schafer,	—	—	—	—	—	—
— A. J. Herman,	—	—	—	—	—	—
— A. Berky,	3	40	—	—	15	—
— C. W. Schultz,	—	6	—	1	—	—
— G. Mills,	1	—	—	—	—	—
— Eppert,	—	—	—	—	—	—